

Remarks

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks below.

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Ku et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,462,762), hereafter “Ku.” This rejection is defective because Ku fails to disclose each and every feature set forth in the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Independent claim 1 recites:

“A method for providing a compact interface for display of an object hierarchy having a plurality of levels, comprising:

displaying a first level root node of the object hierarchy in a first window;

upon selection of the first level root node in the first window, displaying a pop-up window that includes a listing of all second level child nodes of the first level root node immediately adjacent and to a side of the first level root node in the first window; and

selecting one of the second level child nodes from the listing of all second level child nodes included in the pop-up window;

wherein, upon selection of one of the second level child nodes, the pop-up window that includes the listing of all second level child nodes of the first level root node disappears from the first window, and is replaced by the selected second level child node, which is displayed immediately adjacent and to the side of the first level root node in the first window.”

Regarding independent claim 1, Ku fails to disclose, *inter alia*, the features of “upon selection of the first level root node, displaying a pop-up window that includes a listing of all second level child nodes of the first level root node immediately adjacent and to a side of the first level root node in the first window,” “selecting one of the second level child nodes from the listing of all second level child nodes included in the pop-up window, “ and “wherein, upon selection of one of the second level child nodes, the pop-up window that includes the listing of all second level child nodes of the first level root node disappears from the first window, and is replaced by the selected second level child node, which is displayed immediately adjacent and to the side of the first level root node in the first window.”

On the contrary, Ku displays a non-compact interface that includes both a tree structure display window 21 for displaying a desired portion of a tree structure 23 including a plurality of nodes 24 starting from a selected node, and a path map window 22 for displaying a representation 25 of the node currently selected for display as the root node in the tree structure display window 21 and a representation 26 of each ancestor node for that selected node (see, e.g., FIGS. 2-6 and associated disclosure). Thus, in Ku, a plurality of separate windows are required. The claimed invention, however, provides a compact interface that is implemented using a single window and one or more pop-up windows in the single window. Further, Ku fails to disclose the use of pop-up windows as claimed.

The Examiner alleges that a vague statement in Ku, namely “in an alternate form of the invention, selecting the use-as-root-node command 28 causes the system to open a new tree structure display window and a new path map window over the currently existing windows 21 and 22” (column 7, lines 6-10), anticipates the “pop-up window” claimed in claim 1, as well as every other “pop-up window” claimed in claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, and 27. This is incorrect. For example, with regard to claim 1, Ku does not disclose, nor even suggest, that the new tree structure display window and a new path map window (which the Examiner has equated with the claimed “pop-up window”) disappear, and are “replaced by the selected second level child node, which is displayed immediately adjacent and to the side of the first level root node in the first window,” as claimed. Indeed, there is absolutely no disclosure in Ku that the new tree structure display window and a new path map window (which the Examiner has equated with the claimed “pop-up window”) provide any of the functionality of the various pop-up windows claimed in the present invention. It should also be noted that if/when a new tree structure display window and a new path map window are displayed over the currently existing windows 21 and 22, a total of four (4) windows are then displayed by Ku! This is contrary to the claimed invention, which provides a compact interface using a single window and one or more pop-up windows in the single window.

Independent claims 9, 16, and 21 are allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to independent claim 1.

With further regard to independent claim 16, Ku fails to disclose first, second, and third level nodes displayed in a linear arrangement, “wherein the first level root node and second level node are live, and wherein the third level node is live if it has any child nodes.” A “live” node in accordance with the present invention produces an action (e.g., causes a pop-up window to appear) in response to a clicking or other activation of the node (see, e.g., paragraph [0030]. In Ku’s path map window 22, however, the representation 25 of the node currently selected for display as the root node and the representation 26 of each ancestor node for that selected node are not “live” and will not produce an action when clicked on or otherwise activated.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-28 are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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